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Via ECFS
Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

**Re: In the Matter of Petition of USTelecom for Forbearance Pursuant to
47 U.S.C. Section 160(c); WC Docket No. 18-141; Category 1**

Dear FCC,

In my lifetime, the world has completely changed. Our communications, our finance, everything now depends upon stable internet access. I am so fortunate where I live to have a reliable competitive broadband and telephone provider whose mission is service for the community & customer.

Just because I am now semi-retired on income doesn't mean that I don't need or deserve the same internet access and phone service as the wealthy. Why would I need broadband?

- Let's start with banking and financial services.
- Then my small self-employment is remote bookkeeping that entirely depends on stable and affordable broadband.
- My local library offers e-books download audio books.
- Both schools and students at home need access for education
- In my town internet websites have become neighborhood and city communication hubs
- Staying in touch with family and friends is very important to mental health, and where/how do we mostly connect today? Right, need internet access
- Do I need or want services or goods? Request/order on the web

I do still have a landline phone for a variety of reasons. It was becoming prohibitive with services stripped and price increase, and then I found a local provider who actually provides service instead of gouging. Been a happy customer for 10+ years. Wow. No wonder the major companies are trying to control the market.

Please, please do NOT pander to the few. We need good competition and equal access.

Thank you,

Barbara Smith